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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Rep. Carson Secures \$250,000 For NSU
To Fund The OK Center for Rural Development***

Washington, D.C. --

Today, Second District Congressman Brad Carson (D-OK) announced the appropriation of \$250,000 earmark to assist in the creation and operation of the Center for Rural Development. The funding would be used to organize and maintain multi-disciplinary faculty, graduate students, and upper-level undergraduate students from Northeastern State University to work in teams to assess the needs of the surrounding communities.

"I am incredibly excited that this funding was awarded to NSU to provide a much needed function for rural development in Northeast Oklahoma," said Congressman Carson. "The OCRD seeks to address the needs of rural communities by providing a coordinated support system through education, health care, economic and community development. This is a wonderful opportunity for Tahlequah and surrounding communities. The Center will play a fundamental role in improving the quality of life in the region."

The center has the backing of the Oklahoma State Legislature. The Speaker of the State House, Representative Larry Adair (D-Stilwell), authored legislation to provide the center \$320,000 in state funding. NSU is also providing financial support and university resources for the construction of the facility.

Congressman Carson, along with NSU President Williams and Rep. Larry Adair, will be in Tahlequah tomorrow (Friday), March 8th, to take part in the Sequoyah, Adair, and Cherokee County Empowerment Zone meeting to be held at NSU. The meeting is scheduled for 5:15 pm (cst) in the Tower Room of the NSU Net Building.

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